RICCALL
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1895.

SELBY:
W. H. SPENCER, PRINTER, BOOKSELLER, &c.

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POPULATION IN 1895	3,126
AREA IN ACRES	16,735

TO THE RICCALL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you my first Annual Report, I may state that it is one of the duties required from the Medical Officer of Health that he shall, soon after the end of each year, prepare a Report giving particulars of the work carried out during that year by the Sanitary Authority, of the matters affecting health in the Districts which have been considered, the prevalence of cases of infectious disease, and a summary of the returns of births and deaths registered in the several parts of the district.

Constitution of District.

The Riccall Rural District was constituted a separate Authority on the 28th December, 1894. It formerly formed part of the Selby Rural District, but as it is wholly situated in the East Riding, under the Local Government Act of 1894 it became an

independent authority. It includes 8 parishes, which, at the last Census, had a population of 3,126, and an area of 16,735 acres. These parishes formed the Riccall sub-district for registration purposes, so that the returns for previous years are still available for comparison. The district is a purely agricultural one, bounded on the west and south by the river Ouse, on the east by the river Derwent, and by the district of the Escrick Rural Council on the north. Only 3 of the 8 parishes have any considerable population, viz., Riccall, 736; Cliffe, 640; and Barlby, 442. The increase of the population through the excess of births over the deaths scarcely meets the number of persons who leave this district, for, during the period between the Census of 1881 and 1891, the population was found to have decreased by 6·6 per cent.

Birth and Death Rates.

During 1895, 98 births were registered in the Riccall district—males, 52; females, 46. The birth-rate was just over 31 per 1,000, which is above the average rate for 10 previous years. In Cliffe parish, the birth-rate was 40 per 1,000; in Riccall. 35.

47 deaths were registered in these districts last year—males, 30; females, 17. In addition, 3 deaths were registered at the Workhouse, Selby, of persons belonging to the Riccall Rural Districts. It is usual to add these to the deaths actually registered in the districts. The total number is equal to a death-rate of 15·6 per 1,000 of the population; the average death-rate in these districts from 1881 to 1890 was 15 per 1,000. In Riccall parish, the death-rate last year was 20.5; in Cliffe, 14·5; and at Barlby, 15·6. When we examine the ages of the persons who died last year, we find that 55 per cent. of all the deaths were among those who had reached 65 years of age. In several parishes a still larger proportion were among aged people, *e. g.* at South Duffield the only deaths registered were in this group, in Kelfield 85 per cent., and in Riccall 60 per cent.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, &c.

The deaths from the several forms of fever, other infectious diseases, and from diarrhœa are included in a group termed zymotic, referring to the action of the infectious matter, 5 deaths were caused by these diseases last year. The death-rate was 1·5 per 1,000.

From phthisis or consumption there were 3 deaths; and from other diseases of the lungs, such as bronchitis, pneumonia, &c., there were 3. The death-rate from these 6 was just under 2 per 2,000.

Among a small population as at Barlby, a few deaths from any one cause raises the death-rate, *e. g.*, 3 deaths in this group caused the rate to be more than three times the general average, but this is no indication of its usual standard.

Deaths at different Ages.

The deaths among infants under one year were equal to 7 per cent. of the births registered during the year; nearly one-fifth of all the deaths were among children under 5 years of age. 4 deaths were registered on a certificate from the Coroner; 2 of these were due to natural diseases, 1 resulted from an accident, and 1 was a case of suicide.

Cases of Infectious Disease reported.

The Act of Parliament which requires certain cases of infectious diseases to be notified was in operation in the Selby Rural Districts before the division. It continues in force still, and through it 20 cases were reported last year, viz.,

10 were cases of scarlet fever.
5 ,, ,, erysipelas.
4 ,, ,, diphtheria, and
1 ,, ,, enteric fever.

In addition to the 9 cases of scarlet fever reported, there were others in the parish of South Duffield. It may not be generally known that when cases of these diseases occur and no medical aid is called in, the householder is required by the Act to report every such case as much as the medical attendant, and the neglect to report makes all liable to the same penalty.

It is quite plain that where it is intended to hide the fact that a case of illness is in the house, everything is done to bear out the idea that there is nothing wrong; other children are regularly sent to school, church, or chapel, and no real separation of the patient is attempted. That, in short, was the history of the cases at South Duffield. A few cases occurred in August and in December in Riccall, but the infection did not spread beyond the families first attacked in each instance. There was no satisfactory history of how the infection was introduced.

Diphtheria.

The 4 cases of diphtheria occurred in the parishes of Barlby, South Duffield, and Riccall. In one there was a history of illness before the patient returned home; the illness in the other 3 houses was associated with very unsanitary conditions arising from crowded houses, insufficient drains, causing a damp and unhealthy soil near the house, and in all cases a very unwholesome water supply.

Enteric Fever.

There was only one case of enteric fever, about which no history could be obtained, and no sufficient cause existed at the patient's home.

Measles.

Cases of measles are not on the list of diseases to be notified, but a sharp outbreak occurred at Skipwith, and it was considered desirable to close the school for a few weeks in the early part of last year.

Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

The question of providing some hospital accommodation for infectious cases was considered in conjunction with the Escrick District Council. No resolution was come to, and the matter for the present stands adjourned.

Proposed Bye-laws for New Buildings.

On the recommendation of the Local Government Board, the Council appointed a Committee to consider the framing of Bye-laws for New Buildings, &c., under the Urban powers granted to the old Rural Sanitary Authority. The Committee reported unfavourably to the adoption of Bye-laws framed upon the model series as being too elaborate for the requirements of the district. Further consideration was adjourned for a month.

SANITARY WORK.

Water Supply.

Owing to several notices requiring a wholesome water supply to be provided, having stood over from the previous year, these and others have been dealt with. The cases were mainly in Riccall. The sub-soil there is a loose sand and gravel as far as the shallow wells are sunk. That sub-soil has evidently been polluted through leakings from old stone sewers and liquid from fold yards. The evidence of this is seen in the unsatisfactory state of a large proportion of the well waters examined. Clean-

ing out these wells had very little good effect in providing a more wholesome water, and even water obtained through a bored well from a depth of 30 feet was very little better than that from a well made in the ordinary way. On the other hand water obtained from the sandstone underlying the loose sand and gravel, from 150 to 200 feet deep, was found to be a good and wholesome supply. In South Duffield several well waters were reported as being unfit to use. Many of these are open drawn-wells, shallow and subject to whatever pollutions the rain conveys to the well. In such cases one or more properly made deep wells would meet the wants of the inhabitants better, and would cost less than what is now spent over endeavours to improve private supplies. In other districts the property-owners have seen it to be to their advantage to share some part of the cost of sinking such public wells, instead of spending a large sum over private wells for their property. Well waters were also reported from Barlby, Cliffe, Kelfield, and Skipwith, and in a majority of these the water was found to be an unwholesome supply. After a notice had been served a better supply was arranged for either through another well being sunk or the tenants allowed to share the supply from a well near to.

Drainage, &c.

The drainage of villages always requires much consideration. It cannot in any case be neglected with safety, and no amount of sewage is collected at one point. These outlets are well looked after in every parish. Last year an extension of an existing sewer was made at Kelfield, and 230 yards of an old sewer was cleansed in Riccall. In several parishes 500 yards of private drains were laid or cleaned out. As part of that work several new cesspools were made, and new gullies were provided to replace bad traps or drain connections without traps.

Better closet accommodation has been provided by the removal of those in an objectionable position, and where needed extra closets have been built.

There are 18 cow-sheds registered but in no case is there any extensive milk trade carried on, and no trouble is met with in having them kept in order.

Houses unfit for Habitation.

Four houses were reported as being unfit for human habitation, and overcrowding was reported in four others, and this nuisance, which is injurious to health, was ordered to be abated. Mr. Christie has drawn up a table which gives the work of the year in more detail than I have summarised in this report. That work has been concerned with many matters which are known to affect the health of those living in the district, and which are only detected through a regular inspection made in each parish.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MITCHELL WILSON, M.D.,

Dip. Public Health, Cambs.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Selby, 6th Jan. 1896.

TABLE 1.

Table shewing particulars of Nuisances abated and Sanitary Work done in the Riccall Rural District during Year 1895

Number of inspections made...	145	
Number of nuisances found	104	
Number of notices served	42	
Number of water notices served	18	
Old drains lifted and re-laid by Sanitary Authority ...	38	yds.
New drains laid by private owners	233	,,
Old drains lifted and re-laid by private owners	282	,,
Old drains and water courses cleansed...	230	,,
New privies and ashpits built	15	
Old privies removed from dwelling-houses	6	
New brick wells	1	
Old wells deepened and repaired	1	
Old wells cleansed	7	
New pumps	2	
Old pumps repaired	1	
New cesspools	8	
Old cesspools filled up	3	
Old cesspools repaired	3	
New gullies	13	
Sinks disconnected	1	
Canal boats inspected	7	
Cow-sheds inspected	18	
Samples of water taken...	17	
Houses condemned...	4	
Over-crowding in houses abated	4	

The Cesspools and Gullies in the respective Parishes have been frequently cleansed during the year. The open Dykes have also been attended to.

T. CHRISTIE, Inspector.

TABLE II.

STATISTICS FOR THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF RICCALL, 1895, AND AVERAGE RATES DURING THE TEN YEARS, 1881-1890.

District. 1895.	Rate per 1,000 of the Population.				Deaths under 1 to every 1,000 Births Registered.	Percentage of Deaths in Persons aged 65 years and over.
	Births.	Deaths.	From Zymotic Diseases.	From Respiratory Diseases.		
Riccall District...	31·3	15·0	1·5	1·9	71	55
10 Years' Average	30·4	15·1	1·2	2·9		

TABLE III.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATE IN THE LARGEST PARISHES DURING 1895.

Parishes.	Population.	Rates per 1000 of the Average Population.				Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.
		Births.	Deaths.	Zymotic Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	
Barlby	442	15·8	15.6	4·5	6·7	143
Cliffe	640	40·0	14·5	1·5	3·1	76
Riccall	736	35.3	20·5	1·3	1·3	115

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1895 in the Rural Sanitary District of Riccall, classified according to Diseases and Localities.

Names of Localities.	Mortality from all causes.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under Five years of age.																	
												Fevers.														
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.		Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	Total.
Riccall Sub-District ...	47	7	3	2	1	8	26	Under 5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	5	10
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	3	2	26	37
Totals	47	7	3	2	1	8	26	Under 5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	5	10
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	1	3	2	26	37
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto ...	3	...	...	1	...	...	2	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
								5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	3

TABLE B.

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Riccall Rural District; classified according to Diseases and Localities.

Name of Localities.	Population at all ages, Census, 1891.	Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
								Fever.						
				Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membraneous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
Riccall District	3126	98	Under 5	.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			5 upwards.	.....	7	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Totals	3126	98	Under 5	.....	3	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
			5 upwards.	.....	7	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	5

Notification of Infectious Disease is compulsory in the District since 1st December, 1889.

There is no Isolation Hospital in or used by the Sick of the District.